AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An elastomeric gripping element, configured to fit over a gripping section of an article, said gripping element comprising:

a cylindrical member having an outer surface and an inner surface;

a plurality of elevated sections extending from said outer surface,

wherein said elevated sections are configured to include intercalated, crossed or hexagon shapes; and

a plurality of flexible protrusions extending from said inner surface capable of resiliently conforming to the gripping section of the article.

~~a band member situated between said cylindrical member and a writing nib, said band member having a diameter greater than the diameter of said cylindrical member.~~

2. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are raised at least about 0.1 mm above said outer surface.

3. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are raised at most about 3.0 mm above said outer surface.

4. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is formed from an anti slip material.

5. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is formed from a resilient material.

6. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is fabricated of a thermoplastic elastomer.

7. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element has a Shore A hardness of at least about 50 durometer.

8. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element has a Shore A hardness of at most about 70 durometer.

9. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are sufficiently spaced apart such that small particles cannot become lodged between said elevated sections and any particle large enough to become lodged between said elevated sections can be readily dislodged.

10. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections have a smooth outer surface.

11. (currently amended) An elastomeric gripping element, configured to fit over a gripping section of an article, said gripping element comprising:

a cylindrical member having an outer surface and an inner surface;

a plurality of elevated sections extending from said outer surface,

wherein said elevated sections are configured to include intercalated, crossed or hexagon shapes;

a conical member having a converging outer surface towards a writing nib of said article; and

a plurality of flexible protrusions extending from said inner surface capable of resiliently conforming to the gripping section of the article.

~~a band member situated between said conical member and said cylindrical member.~~

12. (previously presented) The elastomeric gripping element recited in Claim 11, wherein said cylindrical member and said conical member are made of the same material.

13. (canceled)

14. (new) An elastomeric gripping element, configured to fit over a gripping section of an article, said gripping element comprising:

a cylindrical member having an outer surface and an inner surface;

a plurality of elevated sections extending from said outer surface,

wherein said elevated sections are configured to include intercalated, crossed or hexagon shapes; and

a plurality of ribs extending from said inner surface.